



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

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Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Don Feith
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

MANCHESTER WOMAN INDICTED ON EXTORTION CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today announced Melissa Harbour, 32, of Manchester, New Hampshire, was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of extortion, conspiracy to commit extortion, and receiving the proceeds of an extortion. The indictment charges that Harbour and Andrew Galashahi, who was indicted by the grand jury on similar charges in August 2002, agreed to make and did make telephone calls threatening to harm the reputation of another person and threatening to accuse that person with a crime in order to extort money from the person. The indictment alleges that Harbour and Galashahi were successful in obtaining \$5,000 from their victim and demanded at least \$150,000 in additional payments.

Harbour will be arraigned at the United States District Court in Concord, New Hampshire. As of the time of this release, no date had been scheduled for the arraignment. An April trial date is expected. If convicted, Harbour faces a statutory maximum of five years on the conspiracy charge, two years on the extortion charge, and three years on the receiving proceeds charge.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the case and referred it to the United States Attorney's Office. This case is being handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith.

An indictment is merely the formal way of charging an individual with a crime. All persons are presumed innocent of any charge against them until the government proves guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.